

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2972

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 3750

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK

SUBJ: PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS

REF: ISLAMABAD 5216

1. PAKISTANI DCM, TANVIR KHAN, IN KABUL -;3 .3 3 SENTIALLY THE SAME STORY AS THAT REPORTED REFTEL CONCERNING THE REDUCT-ION OF PAK AND AFGHAN PROGPGANDA IN A CONVERSATION WE HAD ON JUNE 11. TANVIR SAID THAT THE AGREEMENT TO CEASE PERSONAL PROPAGANDA ATTACKS ON EACH OTHER'S NATIONAL LEADERS HAD FIRST BEEN WORKED OUT BETWEEN PAK AMBASSADOR ARSHAD AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULLAH, WITH THE DETAILS BEING HANDLED BY HIMSELF AND FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL GH AUS. TANVIR SAID THAT HE HAD ALRDRDY NOTED A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE TONE OF AFGHAN BROADCASTS AND THAT THE PAKS ARE PREPARED TO GO EVEN FURTHER THAN THE AFGHANS WHO INSIST THAT PROP-AGANDA OTHER THAN PERSONAL ATTACKS CAN NOT YET BE STOPPED. TANVIR SAID THAT DIFFICULTIES ARE LIKELY TO ARISE IN THE DAYS AHEAD ABOUT THE DEFINITION OF PERSONAL ATTACKS.

2. I ASKED TANVIR IF HE HAD ANY INFORMATION ON THE TROOP MOVEMENTS IN KABUL WHICH HAD BEEN NOTED THE EVENING OF JUNE 10 (IR 6 800 0102 75). TANVIR REPLIED THAT THESE MOVEMENTS WERE PRECEDED BY EVEN LARGER MOVEMENTS TWO DAYS PREVIOUSLY AND THAT ALL THE FORCES INVOLVED HAD BEEN MOVING IN THE DIRECTION
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OF JALALLABAD. HE HAD NO FIRM VIEW AS TO THE REASON FOR THE

MOVEMENT. HE SAID THAT HE HAD A CONVERSATION A SHORT TIME
AGO WITH GHAUS IN WHICH HE HAD TOLD GHAUS THAT HE HAD HEARD
RUMORS THAT SOME AFGHAN MILITARY FIGURES WERE THINKING OF
PROVOKING A BORDER INCIDENT. HE SAID HE HAD WARNED GHAUS
IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS THAT IN ANY TEST OF FIREPOWER THE
AFGHANS WOULD COME OUT SECOND BEST. IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION,
HE SAID THAT HE KNEW OF NO RECENT BUILD-UP OF PAK
FORCES IN THE TRIBAL AREAS, ALTHOUGH ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO
PAK FORCES HAD MOVED INTO NEW OUTPOSTS ABOUT 15 (FIFTEEN)
MILES FROM THE BORDER FROM WHERE THEY COULD DEAL RAPIDLY WITH
ANY TROUBLE. I ASKED IF HE THOUGHT THAT THE AFGHAN BELIEF THAT
THEY HAD CAPTURED PAK GUERILLAS (KABUL 3424) HAD PROMPTED
THEM TO REINFORCE THEIR BORDER FORCES. TANVIR, WHILE STATING
THAT PAKISTAN HAS NO NEED TO SEND SUCH PEOPLE INTO AFGHANISTAN
BECAUSE IT HAS PLENTY OF OTHER MEANS FOR OBTAINING NECESSARY
INFORMATION, SAID THAT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THIS AFGHAN BELIEF
WAS BEHIND THE TROOP MOVEMENTS.

3. COMMENT: COMMENT: WE WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO ASCERTAIN THE
REASON FOR THE MOVEMENT OF TROOPS FROM KABUL TO JALALLABAD
AND HOW MANY MOVED. ALL WE KNOW FOR CERTAIN IS THAT AT LEAST
100 VEHICLES MOVED THE EVENING OF JUNE 10 FROM KABUL IN
THE DIRECTION OF JALALLABAD AND THAT APPARENTLY THERE WERE
ADDITIONAL SIMILAR MOVEMENTS ON JUNE 8 OR 9. THE REASON FOR
THESE MOVEMENTS COLD BE MANEUVERS, PREPARATIONS FOR THE JULY
17 REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS OR CONNECTED WITH PAK-AFGHAN
RELATIONS.

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